UNITED STATES EMBASSY BRUSSELS. BELGIUM

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Protests in Brussels on December 17, 2014.

The U.S. Embassy Brussels informs all U.S. citizens that following protests are expected in Brussels. Police will maintain order.

A rally for peace and freedom in Kurdistan is organized at Place du Luxembourg (blue on map) on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 from 13:00 to 15:30 hours. Approximately 70 people are expected.

A protest in support of human rights in Vietnam is organized at the Schuman Circle/EU Commission (green on map) on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 from 13:00 to 15:00 hours. Approximately 60 people are expected.

A vigil in support of Kurdish activists is organized near the Embassy of France (red on map) on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 from 16:00 to 17:00 hours. Approximately 30 people are expected.

Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Belgium enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP</u>). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the <u>State Department's website</u> where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the Travel Warning for Belgium if appropriate), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution, Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Belgium</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>Traveler's Checklist</u>.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Embassy in Brussels is located at Blvd du Regent 27, 1000 Brussels and is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except U.S. federal and Belgian holidays). If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S, Embassy is: 02-811-4000.

